



Rounding up the Sheep

The sheep-wagon sometimes with an additional tent has always been the same, the only change is the type of locomotion now used which may be gas engine.

The one type of sheepherder that has won his way into Western life is the Basque from the Pyrenees of Spain — a time-honored race that goes beyond history for its origin. They have always clung to racial traits, language, and ways — honest, industrious, sturdy, and orderly. They react to dancing, the singing of age-old songs of Spain, and the gaiety of their country in Spain, and pelota playing. Their "special spirit" of Northern Spain is not Spanish, but Basque. Their language is Euskara, their native tongue of the ancient city of Guernica near Bilbao. The Basques are the known and respected sheep-herders of all time out West.

In the older days, he was paid in chips good at any store in any nearby town. He got 9 or 10 cents a sheep, and a dollar a day for his grub. Being paid every day, he dropped his blades and hied to the nearest saloon to jubilate, swap yarns, and smutty jokes. The real "fellows" of the range were the sheep dogs, often mongrels, but bred-in-the-purpl for sagacity and loyalty. Half of the rounding-up of the herd for night bedding were the trim-timing of the all-knowing canine and the sure-footed sheep camp horse that picked his way along the tricky mountain trails.

An old-time fashion of counting the herd was the black sheep of the flock, so many per hundred to tally the white-fleeced ones. A quick